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OCT 20 2006

Docket No.: 0941-0767P

Application No. 09/473,558
Amendment dated October 20, 2006
Reply to Office Action of July 20, 2006

REMARKS

Claims 1-11 and 13-15 are now present in this application.

Claims 1-11 and 13-15 have been amended, and claim 12 has been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Objection to the Claims

Claim 9 stands objected to for an informality. In view of the foregoing amendments, in which "said network port" has been changed to --said network ports--, it is respectfully submitted that proper antecedent basis is provided. Reconsideration and withdrawal of any objection to the claims are respectfully requested.

Rejections under 35 USC 102 and 103

Claims 9, 10 and 12 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Kloth et al., U.S. Patent 6,147,993. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 10 stands rejected under 35 USC 103 as being unpatentable over 35 USC 103 as being unpatentable over Kloth et al. in view of Ciotti Jr. et al., U.S. Patent 6,421,731. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicant gratefully acknowledges that the Examiner considers claims 11-15 to contain allowable subject matter. Without conceding the appropriateness of the Examiner's rejections, but simply to expedite prosecution of this application, it is noted that the limitations of objected-to but allowable claim 12 have been incorporated into independent claim 9. Accordingly, claim 9

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and its dependent claims should now be in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 USC 102 and 103 rejections are respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant gratefully acknowledges that the Examiner considers claims 1-8 to be allowable, and claims 11-15 to contain allowable subject matter. In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that all claims should be in condition for allowance.

Amendments to the Claims

It is noted that certain amendments have been made to the claims to correct the capitalization of the word "claim," and to change "plural of network ports" to --plurality of network ports-- for consistency. The foregoing changes to the claims should not contain new matter or affect the noted allowability thereof. These changes were not made as a statutory requirement of the Examiner.

Conclusion

Favorable reconsideration and an early Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

In the event that any outstanding matters remain in this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (703) 205-8000 in the Washington, D.C. area.


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If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: October 20, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

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